

May 4, 2020

Westport Planning and Zoning
110 Myrtle Ave # 203,
Westport, CT 06880

Dear Westport Planning and Zoning,

I have heard there is interest in building rental units for special needs adults in Westport. As a father of a special needs child (James - Age 22 - Cerebral Palsy) I wanted to share my support for this development. Our great town needs more options for these young adults, and a development like this will go a long way toward delivering on the diverse housing needs of our community.

As a parent of a special needs child your number one long term concern is where can they live that is accessible, safe and secure today, and also what can we count on for the future when we are no longer here to watch over them. Traditional homes and apartments are not adequate for the unique demands of these special adults. To this end, custom units that are ADA compliant and affordable would be a tremendous help for so many families. In addition, being in the neighborhood he grew up in and close to his parents will make the transition easier and provide comfort going forward,

Community is a very important factor. Special needs adults need purpose and have interests like everyone else. Having these units locally in Westport provides easy access to public transportation, potential employment, outdoor activities, convenient shopping and cultural experiences all in one place. It's not just good for these adults, but it is good for the local community around them. My experience has been that able adults, by giving, supporting and just associating with these individuals, benefit as much as the special needs adults. The local community elevates its own purpose and self worth, creating a win-win for all.

Six years ago I started Adams Camp New England with a friend. It's a summer camp for kids with special needs. We felt these kids deserved summer camp opportunities just like able kids. We work hard to enable them to do all traditional camp activities, from

singing around the campfire to arts and crafts to sailing. The camps now serve 200 individuals a summer, in Nantucket, MA, and Lincoln NH. We involve the local communities and they love it and grow as well. I have watched first hand how these children in an environment where they can be independent, combined with integration into the able community, have thrived. I am confident special needs housing will have the same effect on these adults and Westport.

I hope you will support this needed and beneficial addition to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew M. Schutte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelley Schutte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Andrew and Kelley Schutte
12 Sunnyside Lane
Westport CT 06880